

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for the careful examination given to the present application. The application has been reviewed in light of the Office action and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the application is patentable over the art of record. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 have been cancelled and new claims 8-12 have been added to more clearly define the invention.

Applicant proposes to amend the drawings of figures 2, 3, and 4 to include the English translation of the text in the blocks as shown on the enclosed copies. The examiner's approval of the proposed changes is requested.

The disclosure is objected because a description of figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 was not provided. A description of figures 1, 2, 3, and 4 begins on page 4, line 14 of the specification.

Claims 4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. The new claims more clearly describe how the codes are to be read.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dingwall et al. (WO 93/23767). For the following reasons, the examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dingwall does not disclose a remote identification method with a "label identification step of identifying the said labels by successively reading the code of each of the said labels whilst temporarily inhibiting the other labels which are not yet identified" as recited in claim 8. Dingwall does not disclose "prior identification step adapted to a context with a single label, allowing the rapid identification, by reading its code, of a single label on a single signal

of the interrogator” as in claim 8 or a “prior signal for demanding the sending of the entire label code by at least one of the labels” as in claim 11.

Dingwall discloses a system that identifies coded articles 30 by a search sequence. In Dingwall, the interrogator inhibits each article after it is identified so that one-by-one each of the remaining articles are also identified. Since all the labels, which are not yet identified, remain active during this identification process (page 19, lines 20 to 25), Dingwall does not disclose a label identification step which temporary inhibits the other labels which are not yet identified. Thus, Dingwall does not teach all the elements of the claimed invention.

The office action also states, originally for claim 3, that Dingwall teaches a prior identification step on page 23, lines 21-23. However, this cited Dingwall section describes that the interrogator issues a reset command and then determines if there is at least one unidentified badge in the area. In Dingwall, the reset command applies a power-on signal (page 13, line 19, to page 25). After a badge has been identified, the badge-integrated-circuit (BIC) 30 is powered-down so it no longer responds to the I/R unit as long as the badge remains within range. When the badge is removed from range, the BIC wakes-up again when it next receives a reset command. Therefore, Dingwall does not disclose a prior identification step where the label emits its code entirely when only one label is present in the field or a prior signal for demanding the sending of the entire label code. Thus, Dingwall does not teach all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application as amended is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. The reference does not disclose such a remote identification method and device as claimed by Applicant and further unsuggested modifications would have to be made to arrive at the presently claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based upon the references is

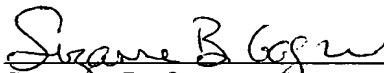
respectfully requested.

If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 31767.

Respectfully submitted,

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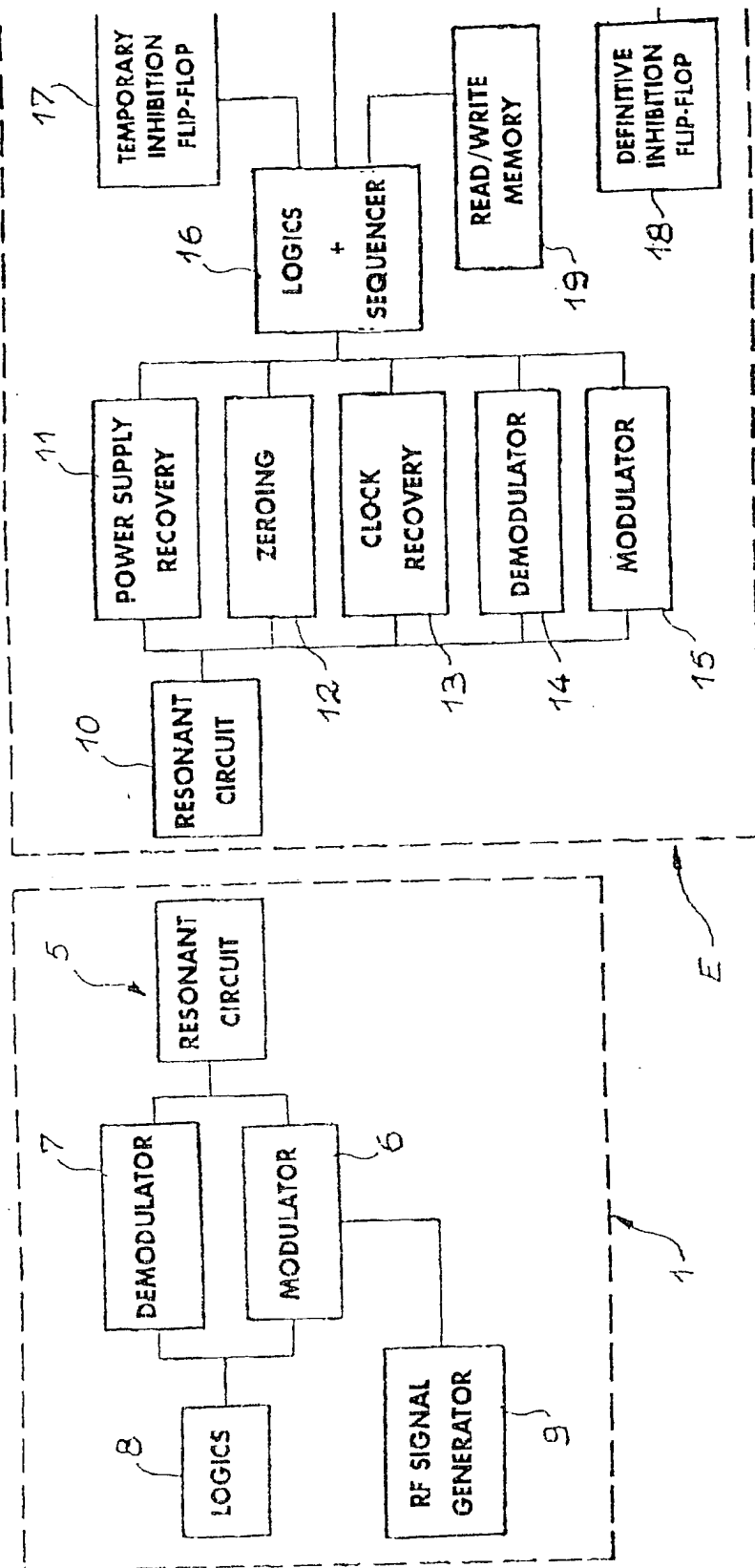
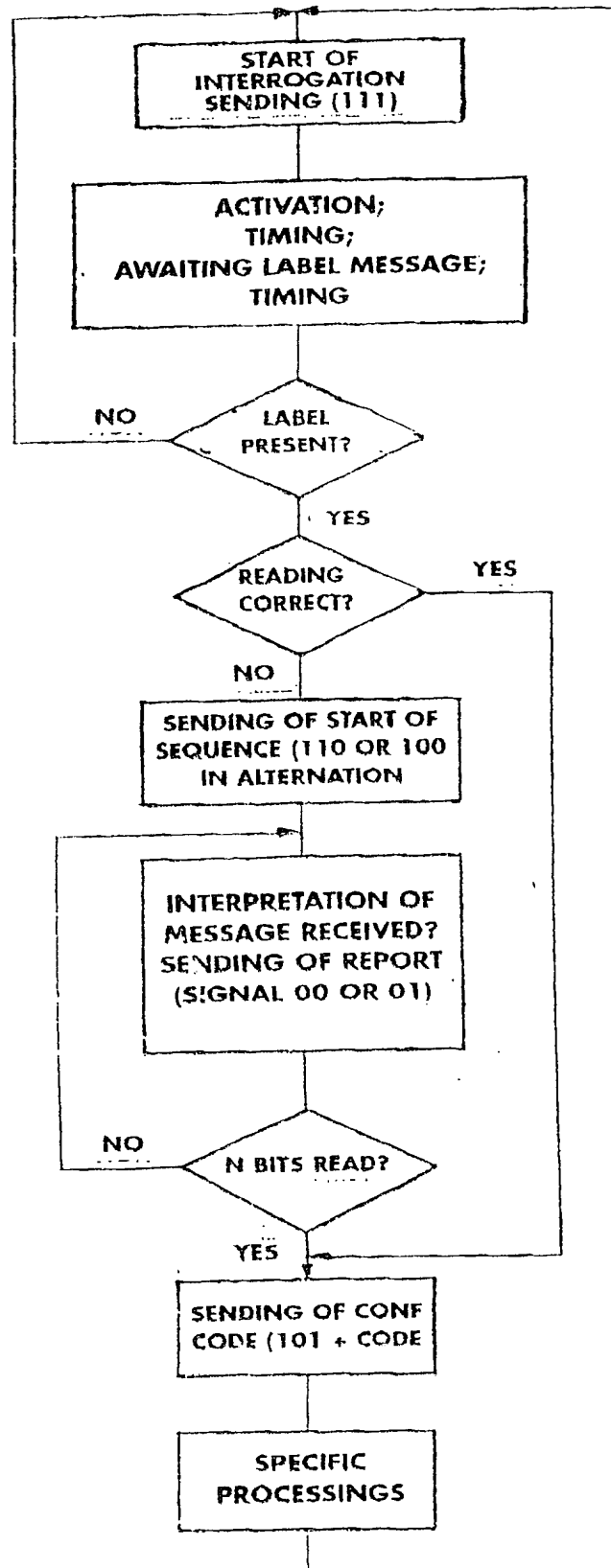


FIG. 2



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FIG. 3



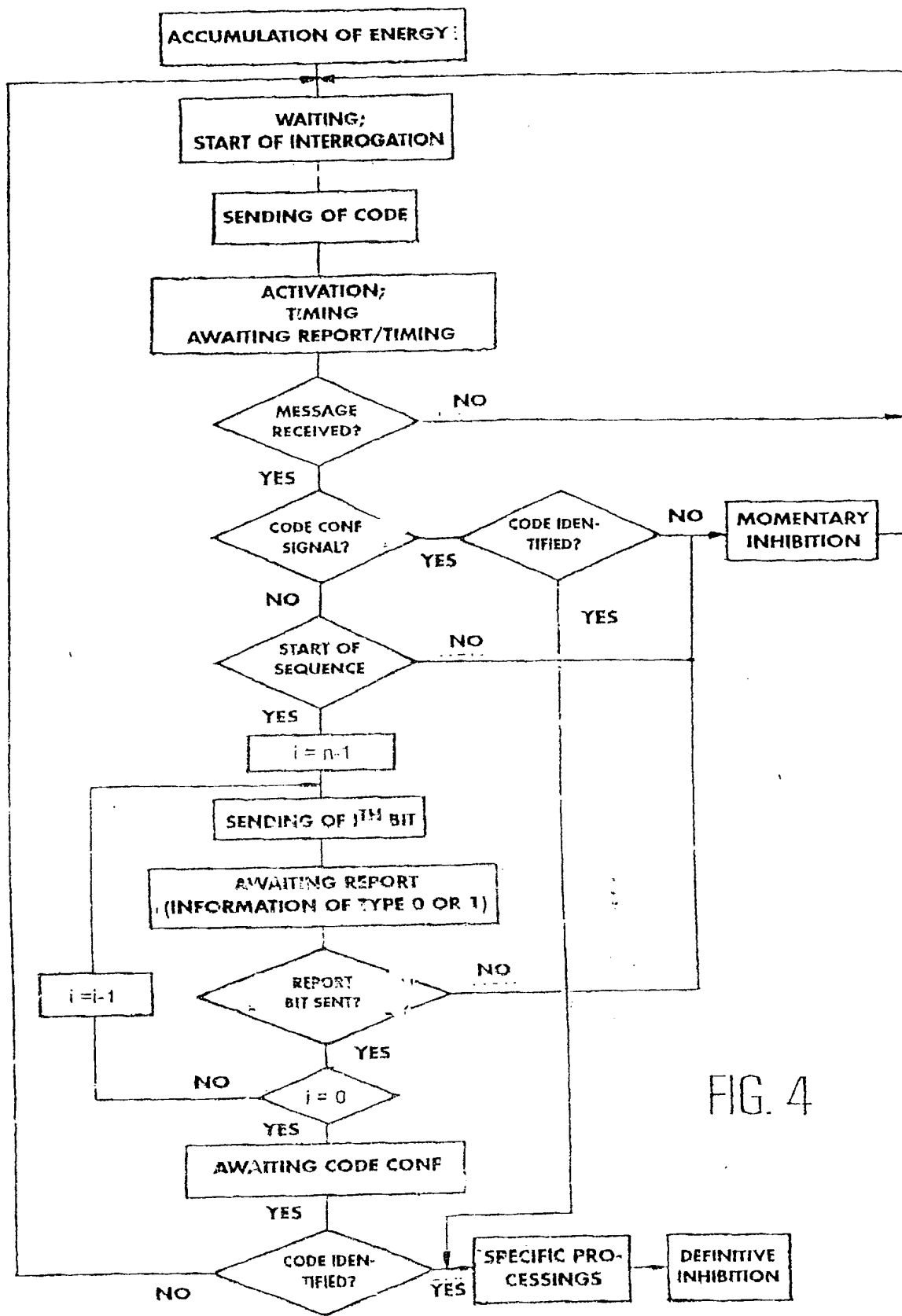


FIG. 4